


Posted by u/rednil97 Human 7 hours ago 

## Humans and Honor

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Soan knew that what he was about to do could cost him everything; his social standing, his wealth and even his live, but he couldn't stand by and do nothing. So he stood up and spoke, his pleading tone betraying his proud stature: "My king, I must ask you to reconsider your decision on the declaration of war against the United Terran Nations."

The king turned towards him and spoke with a calm voice: "Sit down Soan, you may be one of my most trusted companions, I'd even call you my friend, but this is an official court meeting. Tradition demands certain consequences for speaking out against your king. And I may be king, but I can't change traditions."

But Soan stood firm and responded: "My king, I'm fully aware of what I'm doing, and I know that if I am unable to change your mind and that of the assembled council, I am required to challenge you to a duel to the death, which I have no chance of winning. So I understand that if I fail my plead I won't leave this room alive, but I can not allow you to make the biggest mistake in the history of our people."

The king was visibly agitated now: "HOW? How could this be a mistake? Sure they are strong warriors, but they have only ten systems, we have over five hundred! Do you honestly expect us to lose?"

"No, I do not think the humans could best us, though they might inflict far heavier casualties than you expect, but that isn't the reason for my objection. No, to clarify my reasoning let me tell you of a conversation I recently overheard."

"I was in a tavern waiting for my food and drink, when I saw a Human and an Adavian sitting next to each other on the counter quietly talking to each other, until the Adavian out of the blue blurted out: 'Bah, you humans wouldn't know honor if it dragged you out of a godsdamned firefight.' "

"The human was understandably insulted and and in a very agitated tone asked him to repeat that humans weren't honorable. While I prepared for an imminent bar fight, the Adavian backed away a bit and claimed that the human misunderstood. That he didn't say that, quite the opposite in fact."

"He then went on to tell a story about how he and his platoon was taken prisoner back in their war with the humans. And when the building they were sheltered in was hit by an earthquake, the human guard didn't just cut their binds and ran off, but helped each and every one in the collapsing building to safety, his fellow soldiers as well as the POW's. That he even refused to leave the building until he was sure everyone else was safe, in the process more than once nearly giving his life."

"At this point the Human, as well as myself, was quite confused, so the human asked what the Adavians problem with humans was then. To that the Adavian declared that after the war he searched for the man that saved his life, only to discover that all that soldier got for his heroic and honorable deed was a piece of metal called the 'Distinguished Service Cross'. He further said that such a low reward for such an honorable action should be an absolute disgrace for the entire human race."

"After the human asked how big the reward for an Adavian in the same situation would have been, to which he got the answer that the Adavian peoples -similar to you my king- would have given him the land rights to between the quarter and halve of a planet."

"To that the human responded with a single number: '328' After a second of silence he explained that in the Human-Adavarian-war, which was about a single planet mind you, 328 human soldiers earned the very same award for similar acts of heroism. He also added that in the same war 37 soldiers earned the 'Medal of Honor' an even higher award that has requires an even more heroic act to be earned."

"When I came home that day, I checked the humans claims and found them all to be true. Let that sink in, the humans display such honorable acts in such high numbers, that what elsewhere would earn you halve a planet wouldn't even earn you their highest award for heroism. And if they awarded such acts the same as we do, they would have ran out of planets before they had finished repelling an attack on a single one of them."

"And I'm not sure about you, but I can think of little else less honorable than starting a war against such an honorable race!"

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